

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

More Detective Tales by Anna Katherine Greene—Story Set in Old Greenwich Village.

Long List of College and School Text Books in English, German, French and Spanish.

Pope's "History of the Civil War" Continued—Books on Politics, Religion, Agriculture.

A pretentious and deceptive title, "Masterpieces of Mystery" (Dodd, Mead and Company), does injustice to nine pretty good stories by that veteran writer of detective tales, Anna Katherine Greene. They are not as much easily inferred tales selected from the great repository of mystery literature as being the best, but original stories, most of which have been published before, interesting as showing the author's efforts at different styles and as showing her limitations. Some are sketches of detective stories, good as they stand, but clearly such as could be easily expanded into a whole volume. Two or three are capital tales of horror that with a little more care in construction and finish would be of real literary merit. In several the author endeavors to introduce human feeling and sentiment, but it somehow does not fit with the ingenious mechanism. The first story is a very complete bit of terror, the strange story is good as far as it goes, the "house in the mist" story misses being great. The stories are all exciting and interesting.

The pleasant setting of Greenwich Village, which the author describes with a care that betrays its novelty to her, serves merely as a background for the meeting of two detectives in "The Creeping Tide," by Kate Jordan (Little, Brown and Company). So long as they remain stranded in the old house they are interesting and the reader is apprehensive lest they be found out. He puts up with the rather clumsy manner in which the stories of their wretched lives are told to him, for he must judge in some way whether the obstacles between them are insuperable. As the tale progresses it becomes less and less natural; the author clearly is rocking her brain to keep up agony on the unfortunate woman. The end is clear clap-net. The first part of the story is told so agreeably, however, and the impending calamity is handled so skillfully that the reader will read on to the finish in spite of the author's more careless workmanship. She has the knack of making her people interesting; the humbler characters the reader will enjoy.

It is a mystery story that Horace Hazeltine writes in "The Snaphragon" (Desmond Fitzgerald, New York), but he does not treat his readers fairly. He carefully conceals the fact that the doctor who performs an extraordinary operation at the beginning is a dentist, which is the key to the puzzle. The author keeps them guessing as to which one of a company of adventurers who mingle with the best society is the actual thief in a series of remarkable robberies. The boldness of these people and their immunity from interference are only less wonderful than the absence of any intelligence in the respectable people among whom they move, particularly the hero. The female villain is thoroughly bad; the reader hopes that she will explain herself till she adds murder to robbery; her methods, ingenious as they are, seem hardly practicable, but the author prudently abstains from describing the working of the mechanism. There is no lack of excitement in this tale.

The attractive young woman in a bathing dress on the wrapper around Charles Sherman's "The Upper Crust" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis) is sufficient warning that the book is a light summer novel. It concerns chiefly two persons, a youth of boundless wealth and an irrepressible turn for egotism and an impulsive maiden, who lived as a housekeeper for a summer home and who has mercenary ideas. She makes believe that she is the mistress of the house and he that he is a chauffeur. As he possesses even more assurance than wealth he makes love to her, and what with automobile rides and daily swims they manage to have a very pleasant summer, which the reader will enjoy also. When the author is ready complications arise, some of which are comic, which put an end to the summer in a manner satisfactory to both parties. It is an entertaining tale in spite of too much smart talk on the young man's part and far too many declamations on the woes of poor girls from the young woman.

The short stories which Anna Nicholas has collected under the title "The Making of Thomas Barton" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company) are pleasant reading. Nearly all are really stories, the part of which which is author more than the people she brings in. These are mainly plain country people, the kind that many New England women have described in their stories with equal fidelity, but whereas they have touched on their feelings and motives with sympathy and sometimes with sentiment, Miss Nicholas looks on her characters with practical, rather hard sense. This gives an impression of artlessness, but as it appears in all it seems to be deliberate holding back. The story of the man who discovers that he is a bankrupt is by no means noble, but it is solved as a good many men would settle the matter. There are not problem stories, however; some are humorous, one touches on the supernatural, others are merely stories of life. The author must not be misled into becoming intentionally prosaic in the belief that that constitutes realism.

A very slow fuse leads to a sudden explosion in Evelyn Brent's "Henry Kromp" (John Lane Company). A self-contained young man has social aspirations and the stages in his career are described in detail. First his home surroundings, middle class wealth, his meeting with a duke's daughter, who inspires him to enter the army. Next the petty intrigues in his regiment, where he defies public opinion by refusing to be interested in sports. Then the winning of distinction by an act of valor that is unequalled for his engagement to the duke's daughter, who has helped him on, but whom he does not love. So far the hero has done admirable things for an unworthy motive and the author has given disagreeable impressions of every phase of life she has described. Then comes the crash; the hero loses his head and a poor Mesalliance is betrayed by her into an ambush that destroys his military reputation and he recovers to find out that he loves his duke's daughter. All this

drops on the reader with no warning at the end of a book that until then had been consistent at least in its dull, conventional brightness. Strange manners must prevail in Washington society if Mary Linley Taylor's "The Long Way" (Little, Brown and Company) is in any way a picture of it. The characters are all apparently steeped in the traditions of cheap melodrama. A young woman marries on sight a man she does not care for in order to save her married sister's reputation. This action apparently deserves none of the parties nor their friends. The young man who loves the heroine returns from the Philippines and discusses the matter with her, so does every one else concerned. Believe the friends. When all understand the matter thoroughly, the unfortunate man on whom the trouble has been thrust dies conveniently and everything is set right. Inasmuch as the public has taken to his "get rich quick" hero, George Randolph Chester naturally and properly follows the example of Alexandre Dumas, Conan Doyle and the writers of boys' books by providing further adventures in shady finance in "Wallington in His Prime" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company). He holds strictly to the rules of the game by leaving Wallington and the train of henchmen he has



Mrs. Humphry Ward
Author of "The Making of Lydia"

accumulated absolutely unchanged. His readers want "more" and "more" he gives them in this equally entertaining volume.

College and School Text Books. There are a great many things in literature and in life, among them the best and most important, that man unfortunately cannot learn from school books or in the classroom; one of them is the enjoyment and appreciation of real poetry, especially in lyric form. After the early days, when poems and songs are learned by heart, it is to the individual taste that poetry must appeal, a taste that may be developed sometimes by intelligent guidance, such as, for instance, is offered in English by the admirable judgment shown in Dalgrove's "Golden Treasury." It is hopeless to try to demonstrate to a college class why they should admire certain poems or forms of poetry, and more difficult with the Romance languages than with others, because it is so easy with them to glide into sweet sounding verse that has little distinction. There are superb lyrics in Spanish outside of the Romancero; for these the editors of "Modern Spanish Lyrics" (Henry Holt and Company), Elitich Clarence Hill, Ph. D., Litt. D., and S. Griswold Miller, Ph. D., both of the University of Colorado, apparently do not care. They have selected a number of names in Spanish literature and placed under each one or more poems certainly not chosen for their poetic merit nor as being the best by the particular author, they have added to them poems of far inferior quality from the various American countries where Spanish is spoken; they have provided introductions, notes and a vocabulary and thereby fulfilled the requirements of a college text book. Some idea of what is poetry and some sense of what constitutes distinction in literature would have improved their work. A useful and convenient introduction to the Spanish language, the late Prof. A. Hjalmar Edgren's "A Brief Spanish Grammar," has been revised very thoroughly and further abridged by Prof. Edgar S. Ingraham of the Ohio State University (D. C. Heath and Company, Boston). The revision is directed to making the grammar of more practical use to the beginner, in consequence the reference to the obsolete Latin language have been thrown out, which Prof. Edgren believed would be helpful to persons with a college preparation. It is a good and helpful little grammar.

Two short stories by Honore de Balzac, "Golewick et Jesus Christ en Espagne," have been abridged by Dr. R. T. Holbrook of Bryn Mawr College and provided with the apparatus needed by college texts (Oxford University Press, Henry Frowde). The volume belongs to the Oxford French series of which Prof. Raymond Weeks, Ph. D., of Columbia University is general editor. The introduction gives a good but not very sympathetic account of Balzac and his works; the notes are intelligent, though the editor seems to have a weakness for grammatical drill. What seems to be a practical and sensible little French grammar has been prepared by W. H. Fraser and J. Squire of the University of Toronto in "A Shorter French Course" (D. C. Heath and Company). The authors have taken great pains with the pronunciation; they figure the equivalents for the French in the phonetic alphabet, which may be more widely known than we suppose.

The vexed point in Latin grammar, that the learner has to learn the rudiments when college boys studied Latin, has been arranged with remarkable logical method and, we trust, made clear by Prof. M. A. Leiper in "Latin Sub-

ordinate Clause Syntax" (American Book Company). New material for translation from the German is provided by Frederick Betz's edition of Nikolaus Boht's "Faterell am Liff" (D. C. Heath and Company). The text is unobjectionable, whether something more exciting or mature than these mild tales might not be more interesting for college students is a question; at all events the story is not hackneyed. There are notes, questions on the text and a vocabulary. One marked merit of the "Doutches Lern-und Lesebuch," by W. E. Mosher, Ph. D., and Florence G. Jenney, Ph. D. (D. C. Heath and Company), is that the subject of the reading lessons is always German life in some form. The vocabulary supplied, therefore, is of the words that are commonly used. The method appar-



Booth Tarkington
Author of "The Right of Way"

effort, which we take to be the more desirable element in these exercises, and leave them free to attend to the oratorical part of the contents. The requirements of graded schools are met in the two books of "The Silver-Burdett Arithmetic" prepared by George Morris, L.L.D., and Robert H. Anderson, Sc.D. (Silver, Burdett and Company). We are glad to see that modern educators are reverting to the use of pictures and of the abacus, which helped children to understand figures two generations ago, when George B. Emerson wrote arithmetics. "The Solid Geometry," by Eugene Randolph Smith (American Book Company), is a section of a general geometry, printed by itself. The author sensibly relegates to the appendix many matters that are proved once for all at that stage and he uses the syllabus method, which apparently leaves the pupil to do a good deal of his own reasoning from the practical examples he has to solve.



Sir Gilbert Parker
Author of "The Right of Way"

Modern additions to the school curriculum are attended to in a number of books. Prof. John W. Ritchie describes the body and its functions in a "Primer of Physiology" (World Book Company, Yonkers, N. Y.) clearly and simply, but with the usual elimination of all suggestion that reproductive organs exist and only generalities regarding the digestive organs, and with obligatory attacks on alcohol and tobacco. School book farming is provided by "High School Agriculture," by D. D. Mayne and K. L. Hatch (American Book Company), the chemical and biological portions of which, we imagine, will be more valuable than the condensed information regarding plants, crops and stock. A condensed extract of political information will be found in the little "Outline for Review in Civics," by Arthur Mayer Wolfson, Ph. D. (American Book Company), a model "cram" for examinations. In the department of domestic science it is humiliating to observe how large a proportion is devoted to the cravings of the inner man in "Household Science and Arts," by Josephine Morris (American Book Company). One hundred and seventy out of 230 pages are devoted to cooking and food, and even of the remaining sixty the preparations for meals and the subsequent labors have the lion's share.

"A First Course in Philosophy," by Prof. John E. Russell of Williams College (Henry Holt and Company), is a clear and dispassionate statement of facts and first principles that should attract students to further investigation. Here and there, however, the author seems to find it necessary to take issue with Prof. Royce.

J. C. Ropes's History Continued. The regret that the late John Codman Ropes should have left his notable "A History of the Civil War" far from complete at his death will be mitigated by

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An informing soul which vitalizes.—Rochester Post.
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, Publishers, N. Y. Price \$2.50

naturalists imagine them to have been when alive; with the pictures it suggests nightmare. Still we imagine there are youthful paleontologists nowadays.

Then there are the methods by which youth is to be taught to write or to speak English. "Representative Essays in Modern Thought," edited by Harrison Ross Stevens and Frank Humphrey Ristine, Ph. D. (American Book Company), is an admirable selection of solid reading that should appeal to the serious minded general public fully as much as to college undergraduates; all will be benefited by reading and inwardly digesting the articles. Matthew Arnold, Huxley, Tyndall, Wallace, Mill, Sumner, Maine, Frederic Harrison, John Morley, William James, all masters of English as well as of the subjects they treat of, with as many of lesser note, offer models that may well be kept before us. Whether the study of their masterpieces, after they have been analyzed, dissected and discussed, will lead to productions in any way approaching them in quality may be doubted; at any rate they will serve as incentives to present facts in the right way. The "Composition Planning," by John Baker Opdycke (Appletons), is necessarily on a lower plane; the author has systematized the mechanism of composition in every style to a remarkable degree and gives definite, practical directions about what the writer should do at every stage of his work. "How to Write an Essay," by W. T. Webb (George Routledge and Sons; E. P. Dutton and Company), is a much briefer and more compact treatise, having the practical object of preparation for British Government examinations. Some attention is given to the construction of the compositions, but the author's chief effort is directed to warnings against mistakes in grammar in the use of words and such matters. The work of college debaters is simplified by "Both Sides of 100 Public Questions," by Edwin Du Bois Shuster and Carl Cleveland Taylor of the University of Texas (Hinds, Noble and Eldredge, New York). These briefs save the pupils trouble and intellectual

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The history is carried on in the lines sketched by Mr. Ropes in the first volumes, though he left no memoranda for his successor to work up, and Col. Livermore's investigations are wholly his own. He writes with simple directness, holding strictly to the evidence at hand, and abstains from rhetoric, though he has to tell the tales of Chancellorsville, Vicksburg and Gettysburg. We trust he will be enabled to finish this important history, though it will require the labor of years.

The Scribner Gilbert Parker. Four more volumes are at hand of the handsome subscription edition of "The Works of Gilbert Parker," the "Imperial" edition published by Charles Scribner's Sons, uniform with the popular subscription editions of famous authors that they have issued. One, Volume XII, contains a long novel, "The Right of Way," which as a story and as a play met with unusual favor from the public; the others comprise several collections of short stories, Volume XI, "The Lane That Had No Turning" and other Canadian tales, Volume XIII, a fairly long story, "Michael and Angelo," with "John Enders" and "Those of Sorrow on the Sea" and Volume XIV, the Egyptian tales called "Donovan Pasha." Four more volumes should complete this desirable edition until Sir Gilbert Parker chooses to add to it.

Other Books. An uncommonly interesting addition to the popular and low priced "Everyman's Library," published by J. M. Dent and Sons (E. P. Dutton and Company) is the translation of the famous Indian drama "Shakuntala" and other works of the poet Kalidasa by Prof. Arthur W. Ryder of the University of California. The Shakuntala has been translated before, by Sir William Jones and by Monier Williams, and is as well known in the West as any work of Sanskrit literature. Prof. Ryder applies to his version the results of modern investigation and an excellent command of dignified English. Besides translating Kalidasa's best known play, he gives an account of what is known of the poet and his works, the story from the "Mahabharata" of Shakuntala, outlines of Kalidasa's two other plays, abstracts with frequent excerpts in verse of his two epic poems, "The Dynast of Kuru" and "The Birth of the War God" and translation in full of two shorter poems, "The Cloud Messenger" and "The Seasons." All the information that a man of education need have about one of the great poets in the world's literature is contained in this little volume.

The purpose of the "Regent Library" issued by Herbert and Daniel in London (E. G. Browne and Company, Chicago) seems to be to provide enough material to enable a well known author to enable a hurried reader to form a fair idea of his quality and his works. Of the two volumes at hand, both of which happen to treat of women, the "Jane Austen" by Lady Margaret Sackville apparently shows best the intention of the series, a brief introduction, a few appreciations by competent critics, and copious extracts from the novels connected by a thread of explanation. The "Mary Wollstonecraft" by Camille Jehl is far more interesting, especially at this time. In the first place the career of one of the first among emancipated women was remarkable in itself, in the second place the editor has printed "The Rights of Woman" almost in full. Another instalment of chatty and not very orderly political reminiscences is published by Sir Henry Lucy under the title "Sixty Years in the Wilderness" (E. P. Dutton and Company). There are entertaining, first hand sketches

of many distinguished men, there are occasional disclosures of what once were secrets, there are frequent amusing stories and anecdotes, some of them old friends. The author often lets down extracts from his notebooks without attempting to put them in order. It is a book that can be read with much pleasure, but in which it will be difficult to find the facts it contains.

A volume of 315 pages contains the bibliography of "The Case for Woman Suffrage," prepared by Margaret Ladd Franklin, a Bryn Mawr graduate (National American Woman Suffrage Association, New York). It is not a mere list of books, leaflets and articles in periodicals. We are assured in the preface that the enthusiastic author has read every one of the publications she has enrolled, a feat that may stagger the ordinary man. She has described each and given a brief summary of the contents; she has marked the relative value of the book by a varying number of stars, like Bruckner and other guides to what is best. It is a conscientious piece of work which may save other women from many dreary hours.

The argument offered by Sir A. Conan Doyle in behalf of a man that he holds was completed untidily of murder is printed in "The Case of Oscar Slater" (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company). The addresses delivered at the meeting in Chicago last year of the various Protestant denominations that are striving to secure united action in many forms of Christian activity are printed under the title "Christian Unity at Work" (The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York). The editor is the Rev. Charles S. Macfarland.

Addresses and lectures on agriculture and many other topics by E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor emeritus of the University of Nebraska, are published under the title "The Call of the Land" (Orange Judd Company, New York). The author possesses the gift of florid oratory that marks the leading statesman of his State. He says many pleasant things about farmers and others. The book is illustrated with many good photographs.

A slapdash tone and very modern point of view hardly make up for the superficiality and lack of accuracy in the accounts of the four persons included by Mary Rudolph-Mann in "Royal Women" (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago). Elizabeth, Marie Stuart, Marie Antoinette and Josephine are the author's victims.

Books Received. "My Past," Countess Marie Luitpold. (G. P. Putnam's Sons). "European Cities at Work," Frederic C. Howe, Ph. D. (Charles Scribner's Sons). "A Sunny Life," Isabel C. Barrows (Little, Brown and Company). "The Pathos of Distance," James Huneker (Charles Scribner's Sons). "A Personal Narrative of Political Experiences," Robert M. La Follette. (The Robert M. La Follette Company, Madison, Wis.). "Fragrant Selections," Dr. Carlos J. Fin-

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